

## REMARKS

### Amendments to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as failing to include numerals 280a and 260 on pages 15 and 16 of the specification. The Examiner also stated that it appears I/F in Figure 4 should be changed to SI or I/F given basis in the specification.

Applicant is submitting formal drawings herewith, including a corrected Figure 4 with the appropriate correction made. Figure 4 now includes reference numerals 280a and 260 and I/F has been changed to SI.

### 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 48, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner stated that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner further stated that it is unclear how the cassette wafer transporter and stepper wafer transporter transfer wafers beyond the wafer process stations.

Claim 48 has been amended and the limitation in question has been deleted.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 48, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner has rejected claims 48, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner stated that, regarding claim 48, it is unclear what is meant by the phrase "and beyond the predetermined polygonal configuration of each wafer process station in lines 14 and 15 and "and beyond the polygonal configuration of each wafer process station" in line 20. The Examiner also stated that "the wafer track system cassettes" in lines 16 and 17 lacks a clear antecedent basis, and that the SIS in lines 17 and 19 also lacks clear antecedent basis.

Claim 48 has been amended such that the limitation in question has been deleted and proper antecedent basis is present for all other limitations.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 48, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

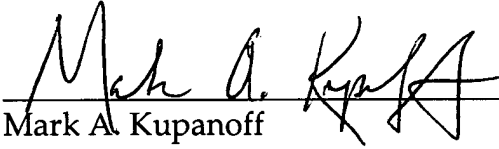
Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Michael A. Bernadicou at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicant has submitted a replacement sheet of drawings, including a corrected Figure 4.

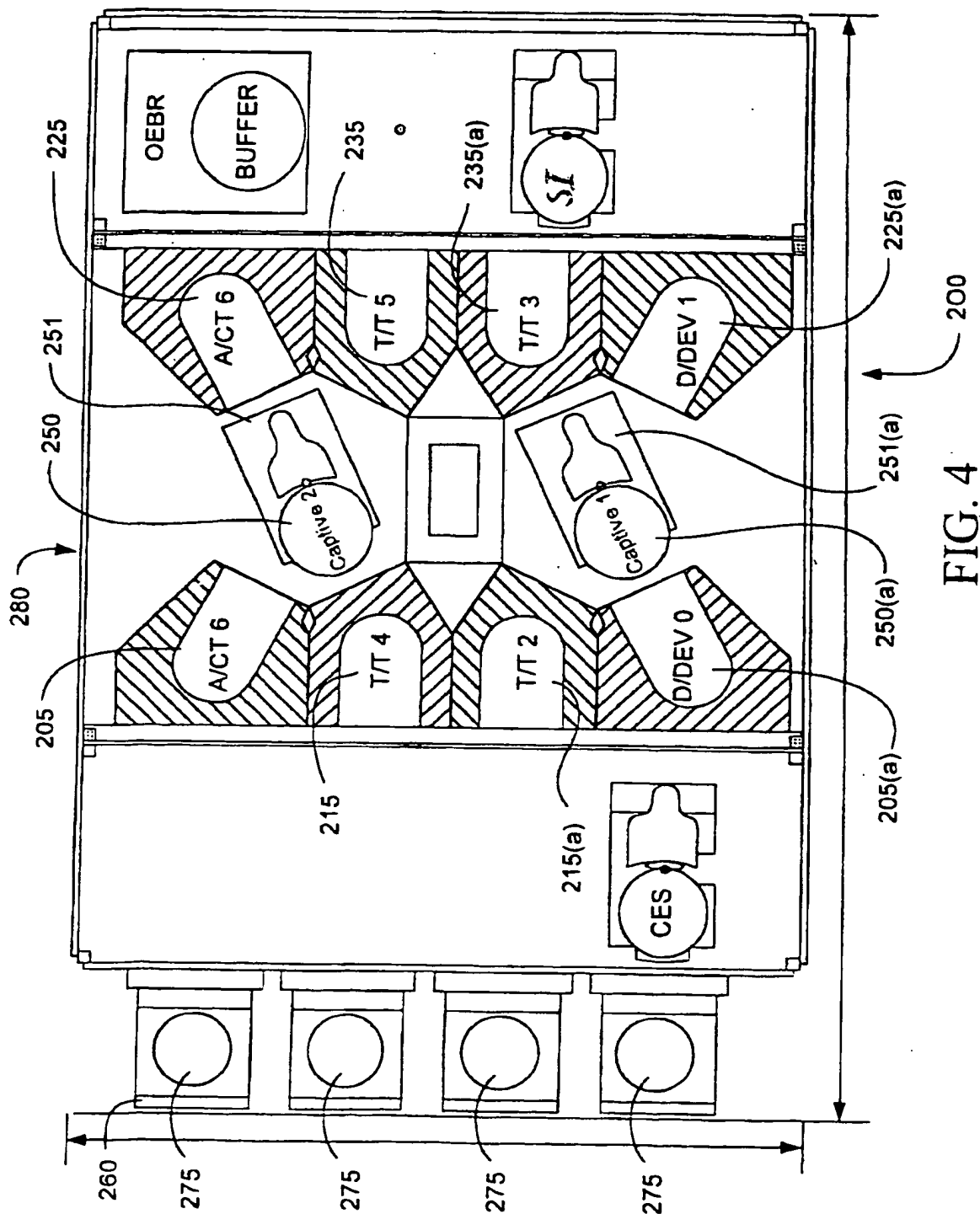


FIG. 4